

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 10475 131344Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8134
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S E C R E T SEOUL 10475

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 1-1652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR: NEGOTIATION OF JOINT STATEMENT

FROM AMBASSADOR

REFS: (A) STATE 296610, (B) SEOUL 10471, (C) SEOUL 10474

1. WE HAVE NOW ARRIVED AT THE CRUCIAL POINT IN TONGSUN PARK NEGOTIATIONS. KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS BOWED TO OUR INSISTENCE ON LANGUAGE RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS DESPITE LIKELIHOOD OF STRONG LOCAL CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY AFTER JAWORSKI AND OTHER CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS. IT HAS OBVIOUSLY ALSO ACCEPTED OUR OTHER MAJOR TERMS.

2. IN RETURN, ROKG HAS REQUESTED TWO CONCESSIONS. FIRST, THEY REQUEST THAT WE DROP INSISTENCE ON LANGUAGE ASSURING THAT THEY WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH PARK'S TRAVEL TO U.S.--WHICH DIRECTLY FLAUNTS THEIR INTEGRITY AND WHICH SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. SECOND, THEY HAVE OFFERED A COMPROMISE ON U.S. ASSURANCES REGARDING PARK'S RETURN TO KOREA. COMPROMISE IS ESSENTIALLY FIG-LEAF TO MEET REQUIREMENT PLACED BY PRESIDENT PARK WHO HAD FIRST SOUGHT ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE AGAINST ANOTHER DEFECTION. BUT COMPROMISE PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM OUR VIEWPOINT BY LINKING ASSURANCES TO TONGSUN PARK, NOT TO ROKG, AND TO U.S. INTENTIONS, NOT TO U.S. GUARANTEES. DOCUMENT IS
SECRET

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CONFIDENTIAL, BUT, EVEN IF MADE PUBLIC, IS EXPLAINABLE TO CONGRESS AS QUOTE INTENTION END QUOTE WITH NO FORCE OF COMMITMENT OR VIOLATION OF CONGRESSIONAL PREROGATIVES.

3. THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT THE CLEAR CUT ARRANGEMENT WE WOULD PREFER IN BEST OF WORLDS. BUT, IT RESPONDS, IN MY JUDGMENT, TO OUR IMPERATIVES AND THOSE OF ROKG. WE TOO HAVE LOOKED AT OTHER POSSIBLE FORMULAS, AND I DOUBT WE WILL FIND MORE FEASIBLE COMPROMISE. WE HAVE BARGAINED HARD AND COME A LONG WAY FROM WHERE WE WERE WHEN CIVILETTI LEFT HERE. I NOW URGE WE CLOSE THE DEAL ON THIS BASIS

AND ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY THE ROKG.

4. WE COULD BARGAIN FURTHER BUT I QUESTION UTILITY OF FORCING
PRESIDENT PARK ANY FURTHER TO THE WALL. FOR BETTER OR WORSE,
HE IS LIKELY TO BE THE MAN WE WILL BE DEALING WITH FOR SOME YEARS
TO COME IN MANY VITAL AREAS, INCLUDING SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
SNEIDER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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